



A 20-year golf veteran in the Carolinas, I can honestly say I have never encountered a course or staff in this great golfing state that was remotely “women-unfriendly.” From my collegiate days at the University of South Carolina, where we played courses around Columbia, to my move seven years ago to Charleston and some of the country’s best golf, the welcome here has always been as warm and friendly as any I’ve received anywhere in the world.

While visitors will not find a course or staff specifically unfriendly to women in the Palmetto State, *Golf for Women* magazine has recognized two as outstanding in this category; Willbrook in the Myrtle Beach area and The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island Golf Resort near Charleston are currently in the magazine’s Top 50 Women-Friendly Courses in America. Criteria used in the selection process included playability, multiple tee offerings, layout, aesthetics, amenities, and overall quality.

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The Ocean Course at Kiawah, ranked among the Top 100 Courses in the world, has hosted a variety of international events including two World Cups and the Ryder Cup.

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Whether you are new to the game or a reigning club champion, South Carolina is an excellent place to improve your game, with a variety of golf schools throughout the state featuring programs tailored to women. In addition, many clubs have women professionals on staff who are sensitive to women concerned not only with playing skills, but golf etiquette as well. Cindy Evans, head teaching professional at The Dunes Golf & Beach Club in Myrtle Beach, acknowledges that many women golfers, and particularly beginners, feel more

comfortable learning the game from a woman instructor, and notes that South Carolina has a wealth of top-quality female teachers.

There are active Executive Women’s Golf chapters in the state that welcome visiting members from across the country to their scheduled outings, and members are always eager to share their favorite layouts around the state.

As the popularity of golf has risen over the past few decades, so has the participation and level of play of women. South Carolina is the perfect “girls-only” getaway golf destination, yet is also ideal for family golf vacations. Along with a variety of accommodations options and great golf values, a number of areas throughout the state offer special family events. Among those is the Myrtle Beach area, whose programs include free golf for juniors and couples tournaments.

Women do not live by greens alone, and one of the key ingredients to a great golf vacation is access to a variety of off-course activities. In this regard, South Carolina is truly world-class. From the foothills and lakes of the Upstate to the beaches of the sun-drenched coast, South Carolina has not only spectacular scenic beauty but outstanding shopping, historical attractions, spas, dining, entertainment and cultural activities guaranteed to enhance any golf trip.

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# Girls

Love to Golf

By  
Dove  
Jones